

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 5 and 6 without prejudice. Kindly amend claims 1-4 and 7-10 as follows.

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, or versions, of claims in the above-captioned application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A community providing server providing a first virtual community for a first user who has a user terminal connected to the server via a network, the server comprising:

a user management information database for storing information concerning registered users who are registered with the first virtual community, wherein the stored information includes addresses of the registered users in the first virtual community;

a contents database for storing contents data constituting the first virtual community; and

a control means for issuing, for the purpose of mounting a virtual tag community on a website of a the registered second user, a community tag that is to be inserted in HTML data constituting the website, wherein the virtual tag community mounted on the website is only a portion of the first virtual community corresponding to the address of a third user who owns the website mounting the virtual tag community.

2. (Currently Amended) The community providing server as defined in Claim 1, wherein,

the user management information database stores information concerning an avatar that is a character acting for each user in the virtual tag community, and

the control means performs control to show the avatar acting for a fourth user in the virtual tag community, who is accessing the website mounting~~having~~ the virtual tag community of~~in~~ the first virtual community.

3. (Currently Amended) The community providing server as defined in Claim 2, wherein, when a fifth user who has not logged into the first virtual community accesses the website mounting~~having~~ the virtual tag community, the control means performs control to show a specific character that indicates the fifth user is not in a logged-in state in the virtual tag community.

4. (Currently Amended) The community providing server as defined in Claim 1, wherein,

the user management information database stores an address of the website of the third~~a~~ user owning~~having~~ the website mounting~~having~~ the virtual tag community among the registered users, and

the control means provides information of the address of the website for a fourth user via the virtual tag community.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A virtual community system providing a first virtual community for a first user, the system comprising:

(a) a virtual community providing server; ;

(b) a user terminal; ; and

(c) a user website server, wherein the virtual community providing server, the user terminal, and the user website server are connected to each other via a network, and wherein
;

the community providing server comprises

i. a user management information database for storing information concerning registered users who are registered with the virtual community, wherein the stored information includes addresses of the registered users in the first virtual community;

ii. a contents database for storing contents data constituting the first virtual community; ; and

iii. a control means for issuing, for the purpose of mounting a virtual tag community on a website of at the registered second user, a community tag that which is to be inserted in HTML data constituting the website, wherein the virtual tag

community mounted on the website is only a portion of the first virtual community
corresponding to the address of a third user who owns the website mounting the
virtual tag community, and wherein

the user website server comprises

i. storage for saving HTML data into which the community tag is inserted.

8. (Currently Amended) A virtual community providing method for providing a first virtual community for a first user who has a user terminal connected to a community providing server via a network, the method comprising the steps of:

(a)a step for issuing a community tag, by the community providing server, for a second user who accesses the community providing server and registers with the virtual community in order to mount a virtual tag community on a website of at the registered third user, wherein the virtual tag community mounted on the website is only a portion of the first virtual community corresponding to the address of a fourth user who owns the website mounting the virtual tag community; and

(b)a step for sending data of contents of the first virtual community, by the community providing server, to the user terminal that accesses the website of the registered third user and that also accesses the community providing server after analyzing the virtual community tag.

9. (Currently Amended) A virtual community providing program, stored on a computer readable storage medium, for causing a computer connected to a user terminal via a network to provide a first virtual community for a first user who is using the user terminal, wherein the computer readable storage medium is an applications database of a virtual community system, wherein

the program causes the computer to execute the steps of:

(a)a step of issuing a community tag, by a community providing server, for a second user who accesses the community providing server and registers with the first virtual

community in order to mount a virtual tag community on a website of at the registered third user, wherein the virtual tag community mounted on the website is only a portion of the first virtual community corresponding to the address of a fourth user who owns the website mounting the virtual tag community, wherein the community tag is being inserted in HTML data constituting the website; and

(b) a step for sending data of contents of the first virtual community, by the community providing server, to the user terminal that accesses the website of the registered third user and that also accesses the community providing server after analyzing the virtual community tag.

10. (Currently Amended) The community providing server as defined in Claim 1, wherein, the user management information database stores information concerning an avatar that is a character acting for each user in the virtual tag community, and the control means performs control to show the avatar acting for a user in the virtual tag community who is accessing the website mounting having the virtual tag community.